

Q#1585
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Evidentiary Document # 5125.

IN THE MATTER OF JAPANESE WAR CRIMES AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE ILL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE BUILDING
OF THE MERCUI-KIRIKHAN ROAD BETWEEN APRIL AND AUGUST 1945.

A F F I D A V I T.

I, VINCENT BENNETT, Major, Royal Army Medical Corps, with permanent address at R.A.M.C. Officers' Mess, Millbank, London, S.W.1., make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was taken prisoner by the Japanese at SINGAPORE on the 15th February 1942 and after passing through various prisoner of war camps I commenced the journey from NAKON PATON on the 11th April 1945 for the purpose of proceeding to a jungle camp which was being used for the accommodation of prisoners of war engaged on the building of the MERCUI-KIRIKHAN Road. The party of prisoners which left NAKON PATON as aforesaid consisted of about six to seven hundred men and two officers, one of whom was Captain CAYLEY, R.A.M.C., and the other myself.
2. On the 13th April 1945 we arrived at the so-called base Camp, also referred to as KIRIKHAN Camp, and from there set out on a march towards the jungle. This march took four days and on the 17th April I arrived at the so-called TOP Camp with about half the complement of prisoners who had originally set out from NAKON PATON. The other half stayed at a camp about 4 kilometres short of the TOP Camp under the command of the said Captain CAYLEY.
3. The TOP Camp had been used for the accommodation of coolies who had left before we arrived. There were three very broken down huts, one without a roof. This was the season when it rained almost continuously and in view of the fact that the huts were situated in a ravine surrounded by high trees, we never had the chance to dry our kit and clothing.
4. The food consisted of rice and dry vegetables and was so short in quantity that after about 3 weeks most of the prisoners were suffering from beri beri and other deficiency diseases. Added to the shortage of food, prisoners were subjected to excessive work, and I remember a period when work went on from about 0830 in the morning until 2 or 3 o'clock the following morning. When this was the case there was no opportunity for prisoners to have meals in camp, and buckets of rice and vegetable stew had to be sent out to the working site.
5. The sick-rate which had been about 30 or 40 men per day rose after about 3 weeks to 60 to 70 men per day, the most usual complaints being deficiency diseases and malaria. In view of the high sick-rate, as aforesaid, I had to ask for some of the worst cases to be evacuated. This was always refused. At that time the Japanese officers in command were Lt. KONDA, Lt. SAITO and another Lieutenant whose name I do not know. These three officers inspected the sick parade every morning and usually agreed with my assessment of their ability to work or to be excused from work as the case may be. Apart from their refusal to permit the evacuation of the worst cases I have no particular complaint against these Japanese officers, except that the officer whose name I do not know, and who spoke quite good English, insisted on sick prisoners (permission for whose evacuation I had at last obtained after unsuccessful attempts lasting about 3 to 4 weeks) carrying, apart from their own kit, two picks each when they were finally evacuated. This evacuation had to take place on foot over a distance of about 17 kilometres. Those prisoners who were unable to walk had to be carried by their comrades on improvised stretchers.
6. Medical supplies were practically non-existent. This was due to the fact that the Japanese medical officer in charge of NAKON PATON Hospital had refused to provide me with any medical supplies when the party left NAKON PATON.

as set out in paragraph 1 above. Serjeant-Major HIRUTA whom I now recognise as No. 281 on Plate 23 acted as go-between and messenger between the TOP Camp and NAKON PATON. In spite of the fact that he was frequently told to bring medical supplies with him when he returned from NAKON PATON he never brought such supplies and I suspected that he sold them on the way to coolies in order to obtain money for his own benefit.

7. [In spite of the conditions described above, no deaths occurred among prisoners of war at this camp. Of a total of about 1,000 prisoners of war, however, who had set out from NAKON PATON for the purpose of building the MERCUI-KJRIKHAN Road, about 250 to the best of my knowledge died in the space of about 4 months owing to lack of medical supplies, overwork, inadequate food supplies and the deplorable living conditions.]

SWORN by the said VINCENT BENNETT
at 6 Spring Gardens in the City)
of Westminster this 1st day of) (Signed) V. BENNETT.
March 1946.)

Before me,

(Signed) F. HONIG.

Captain Legal Staff.
Military Department,
Judge Advocate General's Office, London.

Examined with original affidavit at H.Q. ALFSEA this
sixteenth day of April 1946 and certified a true copy.

(Signed) E.L. ERGLAECH.
Lt.Col., Legal Staff,
War Crimes Legal Section,
ALFSEA, Singapore.

EXHIBIT NO. 1854

供述

松即日本籍西南第一回 /MILLBANK, LONDON/ 英國陸軍軍醫部士
官宿舍内英國陸軍軍醫少佐 /VINCENT BENNETT/ 左如宣誓且ソ
陳述致シス.

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1. 松六九零年(昭和七年)三月十五日 = SINGAPORE/ 於テ呆軍捕虜トナリ、
其後各地俘虜收容所経テ一九五一年(昭和七年)四月十日 = MERGON-
KIRIKHAN ROAD 建設從事中俘虜收容所為使用中、或ニヤ
クル内、收容所往々目的テ NAKON PATON カラ旅始メシタ.
前述人 NAKON PATON から上発シタ俘虜一行約六百名、共二名、士
官ヲ成リ、士官一名、英國陸軍軍醫部勤務、ケイレ大尉外=私
自身アリシタ.
2. 一九五一年(昭和七年)四月十三日 = 松共、所謂基地收容所該收容所示
一名 KIRIKHAN 收容所稱セラシテヨリ到着シシタ. 其處リテ松共、該
チャーチル=向テ行進開始シシタ.
3. 行進三日費シテ四月十六日 = 松 HAKON PATON/ 起床トシテ去発シ
多俘虜全員、約半數と共に謂 TOP CAMP ト起居トシテ去発シ
代半數前連ケイレ大尉指揮下此、TOP CAMP 收容所、
半前約四料或收容所宿泊シマシタ.
4. 該 TOP CAMP 收容所松共、到着前退去シテ苦力、收容所
トシテ使用サニテ居リシテ. 其處ハ三軒、非常破損シタ小屋
ガリシテ、其中一軒ハ屋根がアリセシテシタ.
當時殆ド毎日引漬半雨が降ル季節アリシテ、此小屋
ハ高樹木下置シタ山峠在シタ. 松共、器具や衣類
乾く機会モテテ未だ止

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タ、食物ハ米ト乾燥野菜カラ成リ、少量デアリマシタ、
約三週間後ハ大部分ハ傷瘍ハ脚氣マ其他、栄養
失調症ニ惱マサレタ。食物不足上ニ傷瘍ハ過度ノ
湯薦ニ服サネバナラナカツクノデシタ、而シテ私ハ今テ元
一時作業ガ朝一八時三十分頃カラ翌日ノ午前二時乃至
三時迄繼續シタコトヲ記憶シテ居リマス。
此後ナ時六俘虜ハ收容所内デ食事ヲ攝ル機會
有リマセんデンタカラ、米ト野菜汁、容ウタバケツヲ
作業場迄持フテ行カネバナラナカツクノデシタ。

タ、一日約三名乃至四名ノ罹病率ガ約三週間後ハ
一日六〇名乃至七〇名ニ上昇シ最モ通常ノ疾病ハ
栄養失調症トマラリヤデシタ。

前述、様ナ高イ罹病率ニ鑑ミ私ハ此ノ最重患患者
達、若干名ヲ他ヘ移ス様ニ請願セネバナラナカツク。
斯様ナ請願ハ常ニ拒否サレタ、テス
当时、日本軍指揮官ハ^{ハシタモリ}、^{ハシタモリ}、^{ハシタモリ}、
他一名ノ氏名不詳、尉官アリマシタ。
此等三名ノ士官ハ毎朝此等ノ罹病者ノ列ヲ点検シテ
私ノ罹病者達ニ対スル作業ニ服スヘキカ或ヒハ作業ヲ免
除サルベキカノ能力算定ニ通例同意シテ吳レマシソ

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最重要在患者、退去許可拒否、以外二八名、此等、日本軍士官計シテ何ヲ特別不滿ハ有リセシか私、現在氏名不詳、某語、相當乃ニ詫シタ士官計シテ不滿、皆是居リテ入彼、此等、體瘤得瘡が最後退去ノ時、彼等が自身、器具外、各一本、鷲嘴ア機械にてアスコトア主張シシタ、（該種癌他處屢退去ニ對スル許可、私が約四回向、尙残度力試、子成功ナガリ、努力、後ニヤリト獲得シ得タニシタ）此退去ハ約十七斤、距離ア徒歩ア往來八十ナカツリ。

步行、出来入信第ハ向、合ハセバ、其ノ乗車セテ、職友が運送セ本ハナナカツル。

6. 医療場ハ全然有リテシナシ、医療場が無イ上謂フコト、
NAKON PATON HOSPITAL、ナコンパトン病院、主任日本軍軍医士官が此一行ナコン
パトン出发スル時、私之医療場一切、供給ヲ拒否シタ事実、國心モ、有リテシカ。

7. 前述標十狀態、毛不拘、該收容地、於ハ世第ハ一人モ死ニシテセシナシタ。

然、MERGUI TIRIKHAN ROAD、NAKON PATON
迄、ナコントラック、道路、建設、目的、ナコンパトン市
營、總計約一〇〇名、宿房、約三五名、私、最も底、知限
リ、於、約四月間、医療場、不足、過勞、不適事、此食料供給
及、悲惨生活、狀態、起因、死セシナシタ。

160. 4

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一九四六年(昭和二十一年)三月一日 在西敏寺市 /Westminster/

スコットランド /Spring Gardens/ にて 該地にて
ビンセント /Vincent Bennett/ 宣誓書人

V. Bennett /
(署名)

余、重前二行下

在ロンドン /London/ 陸軍省法務局長室

法務官大臣 /F. Hong/
(署名)

一九四六年(昭和二十一年)四月十六日アーフィー /G. H. G. Alfiea/
兼南支那総司令部於テ宣誓書原本 /
調査(ノルマニ)対支那本社トテ 証明人。

在シンガポール /Singapore/ リー /Alfiea/
戦争犯法務局
法務官中佐 /H. L. ERGLENCH/
(署名)